

Kentucky Department of Corrections Staff and Offender

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THE TOOL BOX

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

Successful Reentry: Partnerships on outside critical for ex-offenders making new start

Hundreds of people committed to helping former offenders successfully return to their communities were energized and ready to get back to work after a recent event, when one state official paused to point out how far California has come in the past few years.

“This is a mammoth shift,” Linda Penner proclaimed about how California’s governmental agencies are working with community-based organizations (CBOs) to ensure successful reentry from incarceration to the community.

As chair of the Board of State and Community Corrections (<http://www.bscc.ca.gov/>) (BSCC), Penner made the comments during the two-day “Reentry Solutions: People, Programs and Policy (<http://www.frbsf.org/community-development/events/2016/october/2016-reentry-solutions-for-success/>)” conference held last week in Ontario. The conference convened representatives from governmental agencies, community-based organizations and advocates to discuss how to achieve successful reentry for not only the formerly incarcerated, but those whose lives are impacted by incarceration.

Panel discussions held throughout the conference focused on all facets of completing successful reentry including issues of family, housing, health, employment, education and neighborhood conditions. Subjects such as creating pre-release programs to ensure success, the faith community’s role in reentry and the impact of reentry on the children and families of the incarcerated were discussed. Successful state and county programs were highlighted, also. This is the conference’s second year hosted by the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank.

CA Fwd Senior Policy Consultant Kathy Jett led a panel discussion focused on health care of returning individuals. Panelists discussed how the Affordable Care Act and the state’s Medi-Cal 2020/1115 Waiver can help counties provide services to certain populations as well as how counties work with the reentry of individuals who have behavioral health issues, such as long-term substance abuse or mental health illness.

Panelist Stephanie Welch, executive officer of the Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (<http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/COMIO/>) (COMIO) talked about how the mentally ill have a higher



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recidivism rate than the general population and commented “the crime is that we’re not following them when they return to the community.” She added that strategies for successful reentry include pre- and post-release psychiatric services, as well as removing the stigma of mental illness, as it is a barrier to opportunities, especially for those in the criminal justice system.

Riverside County Probation Chief Mark Hake led the final general session of the conference, which focused on what changes, challenges and accomplishments are taking place on the state and county level to ensure successful reentry, which includes work with community partners.

“I believe, if we are to improve, not only our work on reentry, but across the justice systems, we must work to develop and enhance the partnership opportunities that exist in our local communities,” said Hake.

Reference: (to read full article, please use the reference information below)

Ono, N. (2016, 10 27). Successful Reentry: Partnerships on outside critical for ex-offenders making new start. Retrieved from CAFWD: <http://cafwd.org/reporting/entry/successful-reentry-partnerships-on-outside-critical-for-ex-offenders-making>

“ [I]mproving rehabilitation programs and reentry outcomes doesn’t just help formerly incarcerated individuals; it’s also good for our communities as a whole. ”

- Attorney General Loretta Lynch,
2/23/16

THOMAS MORE COLLEGE AIDS IN OFFENDER REENTRY

Students from Thomas More College, located in Crestview Hills, Kentucky, just completed the P.O.R.T.A.L New Direction program for a group of 12 inmates housed at the restrictive custody unit of the Campbell County Detention Center. The students presented the program as part of their course requirements for a Probation and Parole course taught by Professor Amy Thistlethwaite, Chair of the Sociology and Criminal Justice department at TMC. Professor Thistlethwaite has been coordinating the course with Officer Tatia Moore from District Seven Probation and Parole. This recent class of graduates is the third course taught by Professor Thistlethwaite and her students. The students are learning about the obstacles inmates face upon release and are becoming familiar with the resources in the local area intended to meet those needs. Here is what some of the students wrote about the experience:



Back row (left to right)- Matthew Betustak, Chris McEvoy, Julia Echols, Sydney Polster, Amber Greene, Sam Simpkins
Front row (left to right)- Noah Frantz, Amy Thistlethwaite, Ethan Kramer

Not Pictured: Kendra Berry, Anel Bosnjakovic, Joe Paolucci, Andrew Routson, Michael Smiley, and Daniel Williams

“Our responsibility as a class was to teach them [the inmates] how to get back to the community and become part of it.”

“I believe that my place in this world, and everyone else’s, is to help our fellow men no matter if they’re in jail, addicted to drugs, or just down on their luck.”

“This class helped me broaden my views of the people behind bars.”

“[The inmates] were always polite and actually wanted to be there.”

“I think this course really speaks to the TMC mission statement. Not only are we doing this for college credit but we do it to make others’ lives better. We did this class so that we could show these people what life is like on the outside, so we could adequately prepare them for the new world they are hopefully soon going to step into. I think this was a great class and not only did I learn from the material I really learned from the experience and even learned from the inmates as well.”

Submitted by: Dr. Amy B. Thistlethwaite

**SPOTLIGHT ON REENTRY PROBATION AND PAROLE OFFICER:**

PAM BENTLEY, DISTRICT 10, LONDON

P & P Officer Pam Bentley started with DOC in May of 2005 as a supervision Officer in District 10, London. She has been doing Reentry since 2011. She is certified in Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), 24/7 Dads, The Carey Guides, Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), Correctional Program Checklist, Core Correctional Practices, and PORTAL/New Direction. She has also been an active member of the Southeast Reentry Council and currently serves as their Deputy Director. She also serves on the Knox/Laurel Drug Court panel.

Pam was tasked with providing reentry services to District 10 in a way that would be the most efficient and effective. To do this, she has partnered with community action agencies and local governments to use space and services to deliver programming and assistance to clients.

District 10 has Reentry programming available for all seven counties. Pam facilitates MRT and PORTAL/New Direction in London, Barbourville, Manchester and Harlan. She offers 24/7 Dad's twice per year in the same locations and co-facilitates the class with Officer Kevin Napier. Pam also graciously agreed to assist District 20 with MRT participants from the Williamsburg office.

Pam also serves as a firearms instructor and adjunct trainer. She assists with Officer Basic Academy, Officer In-Service, and any additional trainings the division requires.

Submitted by: Jim Bundy, District 10 P&P Supervisor, London

IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE THAT DOES REENTRY OR OFFERS
REENTRY SERVICES AND WOULD LIKE TO SPOTLIGHT THEM,
PLEASE LET THIS OFFICE KNOW:

MELISSAJ.MOORE@KY.GOV



SPOTLIGHT ON REENTRY STAFF:
HANNAH KEFFER, DISTRICT 3, BOWLING GREEN

We could say that Officer Hannah Keffer began her career in the Kentucky Department of Corrections on March 16, 2012 at the District 3 Office in Bowling Green, but her involvement in the corrections family began long before that. Officer Keffer is a legacy employee, whose father was a previous warden at Kentucky State Penitentiary. Growing up in a family with a corrections background instilled the current values that she now has as a Probation and Parole (P&P) Officer. Officer Keffer believes in helping people to reduce the cycle of recidivism and has worked hard to become one of the greatest programing officers we have.

Despite having a full caseload, Officer Keffer has always assisted with programming. When she started in 2012, she assisted other officers in teaching PORTAL to recently released parolees. As soon as she was trained, she began teaching Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) at the Warren County Regional Jail in July 2014. In March 2016, she helped to implement MRT in the Bowling Green P&P Office and continues to teach once a week, with hopes to expand in the future. Officer Keffer is also trained in Thinking for a Change and PORTAL New Direction. She hopes to train additional officers in PORTAL New Direction, which is expected to be implemented in 2017. Officer Keffer is eager to expand her knowledge of programming and has expressed interest in learning more about future programs offered by DOC. She is actively involved in reentry efforts and is currently assisting with a pilot for a new risk assessment tool.

To say that Officer Keffer is passionate about her role in DOC is an understatement. She is eager, motivated, and always willing to help. She is actively involved in the Southern KY Reentry Council and understands the importance of partnerships with local resources. Her invaluable relationships with local law enforcement agencies and officers make her a great Public Information Officer for District 3. Officer Keffer does whatever is needed to get the job done and will go the extra mile to help someone in need. Participants in her class are actively involved and appear to truly appreciate the assistance she provides in helping them towards a better life. I have personally witnessed the pride that some of her graduates have had in their accomplishments. Officer Keffer has an outstanding positive attitude toward her work and everyone around her. She is an exceptional asset to District 3 and to the reentry movement of the entire Division of Probation and Parole.

Submitted by: Katy Kilgore, District 3 P&P Assistant Supervisor, Bowling Green



YOU HAVE A VOICE!!! Want to use it??
Interested in joining a Kentucky Reentry Council in your area??

Kentucky Reentry Councils

Kentucky Reentry is made up of reentry task forces or councils throughout the state of Kentucky. The reentry groups do not provide services for ex-offenders, nor do they have reentry programs. They are made up of individuals and organizations networking together to share information and improve the reentry process. The members may be organizations and/or individuals that provide services and/or have interests in helping. Each group is focused toward ex-offenders coming back to their areas, the issues involved, and making their community safer.

The basic purpose of each group are:

To address the current issues returning citizens face

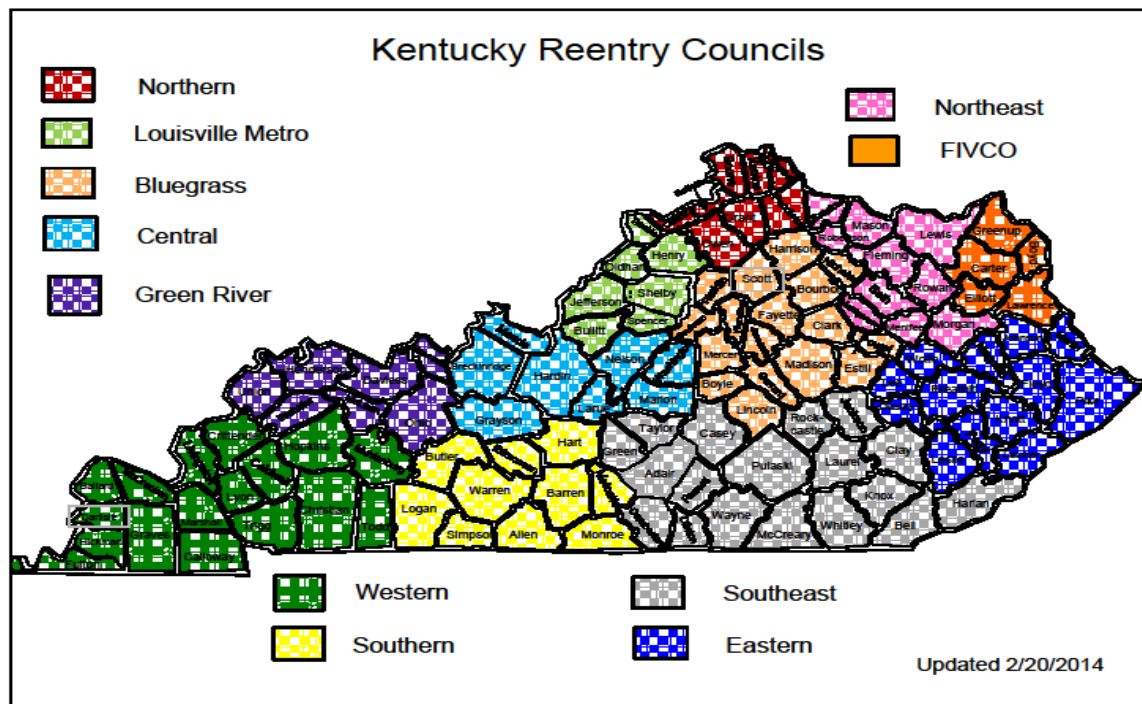
To develop a network of resources and service providers within their area

To communicate and advocate for the justice involved population to the community and their leaders.

If you would like to join, please visit our updated website: www.kentuckyreentry.org for meeting dates, times and locations in your area!

Also, visit us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/kentuckyreentry>



Four Key Elements to Successful Reentry Programs for Inmates

1. Start Early

Until recently, the focus of organizations and government agencies has been predominantly on release programs, while ignoring the significance of pre-release programs. But as the Federal Bureau of Prisons philosophy states, “release preparation begins the first day of incarceration, (and) focus on release preparation intensifies at least 18 months prior to release.”

As you’ll see, successful reentry programs for inmates rely on more than just helping ex-offenders find jobs; it also requires helping offenders change their attitudes and beliefs about crime, addressing mental health issues, providing mentoring, offering education opportunities and job training, and connecting them with community resources. Most, if not all, of these things can and should begin long before a person’s release date.

2. Clients, not offenders

When government agencies and social service organizations just see “offenders”, they often serve up a one-size fits all approach that ends up fitting no one. However, in a comprehensive report released by the Council for State Governments Justice Center, Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies, they make a strong case that employment programs need to move beyond traditional services. Instead, they recommend addressing individuals’ underlying attitudes about crime and work, making them more likely to succeed at getting and keeping jobs and less likely to reoffend. Not all offenders share the same risk levels or needs, and learning how to accurately assess these attributes and deliver customized help is an important element to truly helping people get out of the criminal justice system.

3. Reassess frameworks

According to MDRC, an organization committed to learning what works to help improve the lives of low-income people, “There is a growing consensus that reentry strategies should build on a framework known as Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR).” The framework helps organizations assess individuals’ risk levels for recidivism and provide appropriate levels of response.

4. An insistence on evidence

I’m sure you knew it was coming, but it may surprise you to learn that previously there was very little evidence available to help determine what makes prisoner reintegration programs successful. Most organizations and government agencies were flying blind. To quote our white paper, *It Takes a Village*, “given the significant dollars issues in every state to community-based partners to execute specialty services for vulnerable populations, the limited view and engagement model represents a massive barrier to genuine collective practice and progress monitoring. Information systems are silo-ed, agencies have ‘policies’, and service providers often have multiple hands that feed them.”

Reference: (to read full article, please use the reference information below)

Johnson, S. (2007, July). *4 Elements of Successful Reentry Programs for Inmates*. Retrieved from Social Solutions: <http://www.socialsolutions.com/blog/4-elements-of-successful-reentry-programs-for-inmates/>

12 Winter Safety Tips for Families

Keep your family safe by following these 12 tips:

1. BUNDLE UP

Baby, its cold outside, so keep your babies warm. However, you don't want to make them TOO warm. They say to bundle them up in the same amount of layers that you would wear to keep warm. But, remember, no coats in car seats.

2. KEEP A CAR EMERGENCY KIT IN YOUR VEHICLE

Always be prepared by keeping a car emergency kit in your vehicle. You never know when it might come in handy.

3. GET YOUR TIRES CHECKED

Most of the safety on your vehicle relies on your vehicle's tires. Make sure your tires are properly inflated and are in good condition for the winter months.

4. BEWARE OF CARBON MONOXIDE

Never warm up your car with your garage closed. Always open your garage and then start your vehicle. Carbon Monoxide can be silent, but deadly.

5. KNOW THE WIND CHILL FACTOR

This tip is especially important if you have kiddos that go to school. Sometimes the winter months bring about negative wind chill factors. Make sure your kids are dressed appropriately for being outside playing or at the bus stop.

6. ALWAYS TELL A FRIEND WHEN TRAVELING

If you plan on heading out in the winter months, always tell a friend where you're going and when you are expected home or at your destination.

7. KNOW ABOUT FROSTBITE AND HYPOTHERMIA

Although it may seem like these two things can only happen in movies, frostbite and hypothermia are very real and can be deadly.

8. KEEPING THE BATHING TO A MINIMUM

A lot of kids cannot handle baths every day in the winter months, it simply dries out their skin. Keep the baths down to 2-3 a week to help avoid severe dried out skin during the winter months.

9. KEEP WINTER ACTIVITIES APPROPRIATE

Know what your child can and cannot handle during winter outdoor activities. And always keep safety first, such as wearing a helmet.

10. WEAR SUNSCREEN

It's imperative to wear sunscreen in the winter months, even when it's cold outside.

11. KEEP SPACE HEATERS OUT OF REACH

Space heaters have come a long way in the past 20 years, but they can still be dangerous, so keep them out of reach of your children.

12. KEEP CLEANING SUPPLIES AND DETERGENTS LOCKED UP

Make sure that cleaning supplies and laundry detergent are in a safe place or locked cabinet. Ensure that they are labeled. In 2015 alone, there have been over 10,000 exposures to liquid laundry packets in children under 5.

Reference: (to read full article, please use the reference information below)

Krystyn. (2015, 12 30). *12 Winter Safety Tips for Families*. Retrieved from really, ARE YOU SERIOUS?: <http://www.reallyareyouserious.com/12-winter-safety-tips-for-families/>

RESOURCES:

Resources Needed!

NORTHERN KENTUCKY REENTRY TEAM RESOURCE FAIR

Kentucky Reentry:
A Second Chance to Make a First Impression




What: Resource Fair for Justice Involved Population
When: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 From 9:00 AM—12:00 PM
Where: Kentucky Career Center, 1324 Madison Ave, Covington, KY

Do you have a Resource?

We are looking for those who are interested in having a table at the fair with resources for Justice Involved Population!

Contact or More Information:
 Kerry.Mears@ky.gov / 502-782-2256



Kentucky Career Center
 Career Training Employer
www.kentuckycareercenter.com

The Kentucky Career Center is your link to employment, workforce information, education and training. Our goal is to match qualified workers with employers' needs. Whether you are a job seeker or a job provider, the Kentucky Career Center has services for you.

Working together to make Kentucky's workforce stronger.

It is important to have a plan if you want to land that dream job. The Kentucky Career Center can help you get on the right track with these services.

Job Seeker Services:

- Conduct job search and placements
- Measure skills and abilities
- Create a resume and prepare for interviews
- Explore career training options
- Discover job specialty services for military veterans
- Gain computer skills
- Access job assistance for people with a disability
- Find unemployment support and assistance
- Get GED assistance and access adult learning opportunities
- Find services for displaced workers

The Kentucky Career Center is committed to helping your business succeed. Whether you're new to Kentucky or have been here for many years, we offer services that can make your company stronger.

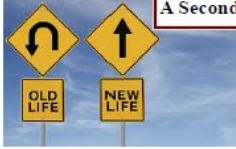

Employer Services:

- Post available jobs online
- Recruit qualified workers
- Pay employer taxes online
- Review and understand labor market information
- Take advantage of tax credit incentive programs
- Apply for possible workforce training
- Realize benefits of hiring military veterans and people with disabilities

RESOURCES NEEDED!

WESTERN KENTUCKY-HOPKINSVILLE REENTRY RESOURCE & JOB FAIR

Kentucky Reentry:
A Second Chance to Make a First Impression

What: Resource & Job Fair for Justice Involved Population
When: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 From 9:00 AM—1:00 PM CST
Where: TBD—HOPKINSVILLE, KY

Do you have a Resource?

We are looking for those who are interested in having a table at the fair with resources for Justice Involved Population!

Contact or More Information:
 Kerry.Mears@ky.gov / 502-782-2256

RESOURCES:

**THERE IS HOPE**

PAL provides continuing education and support, at no charge, for parents struggling to cope with a son or daughter addicted to drugs or alcohol.

For Spouses Too

PAL can also help spouses who are forced to *act like a parent* to their addicted partner. All other sober family members and friends are also welcome to attend our meetings.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

By attending our meetings, you will learn proven ways to help your loved one toward recovery from addiction. You will also be able to give and receive support from others who are facing the same challenges as you are.

MONDAYS
7:00-8:30

NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

117 East Jefferson Street, Georgetown, Kentucky 40324

FACILITATED BY PARENTS ON A SIMILAR JOURNEY

For more information, www.pal-group.org
or text or call 859-421-3484

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YOU ARE NOT ALONE

By attending our meetings, you will learn proven ways to help your loved one toward recovery from addiction. You will also be able to give and receive support from others that are facing the same challenges as you are.

TUESDAYS
6:30-8:00
MENTOR CHURCH

3724 Smith Rd. California, KY 41007

FACILITATED BY LISA RUSCHMAN & TONI BEASLEY

TWO PARENTS ON THE SAME JOURNEY,

For more information, www.pal-group.org
or text or call Toni Beasley 859-414-8873
(calls will be returned after 5 pm or on weekends)



Parents of Addicted Loved Ones Support Group

Group is Free – No Registration Required



Join Us
Every Wednesday
6:30-8:30

3629 Church St. Latonia, KY 41015

There is Hope!
PAL meets every week and provides continuing education along with support, at no charge, for parents with a son or daughter suffering from alcohol or drug addiction.

You are Not Alone!
Many families are affected by addiction. PAL will allow you to give and receive support from others who are facing the same challenges you are. The guiding principles of Pal are confidentiality, respect, acceptance and support.

For Spouses Too!
PAL can also assist spouses who are sometimes forced into acting like a parent to their addicted partner who is abusing alcohol or drugs

www.covingtoncharities.org

For More Information, Contact:

Laura Jackson / Paula Weber
Catholic Charities
(859)581-8974

Tina & Tony Garera
PAL Group Facilitators
(859)760-0954



Never Lose Hope.

If you know of any support groups or family/offender resources you would like to see published, please email:

Melissaj.moore@ky.gov
Reentry Branch


RESOURCES:




**4 Your Child
Dads Making The Difference**

Fathers' involvement in their children's lives has received increased attention in recent years. In response, support has grown for responsible fatherhood programs aimed at improving the quantity and quality of fathers' involvement. Research on these programs has concluded that factors such as fathers' parenting skills, co-parenting relationship quality, and socioeconomic status all impact fathers' ability to contribute to their children's growth and development.

- ✓ Increase parenting and relationship knowledge!
- ✓ Get connected to resources!
- ✓ Enjoy **FREE** food!
- ✓ Be compensated for your time up to \$220!



For more info or to sign up for orientation contact
 Dr. Cheri Langley at (502) 709-9323 or by email at
 Cheri.Langley@louisville.edu

Connect With Us Online!
www.4YourChild.org
 @4YourChildKy  @4YourChildKy

Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, grant number 89F00074-02-00. These services are available to all eligible persons, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, or religion.



SAVE THE DATE

Kentucky Faith-Based Prevention Enhancement Site Communicare Regional Prevention Center

6TH Annual Faith-Based Prevention Conference

BACK TO THE FUTURE

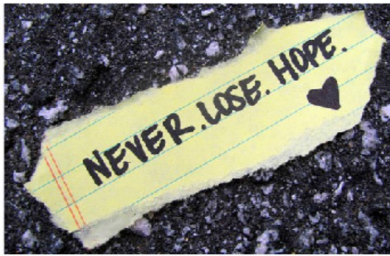
Taking it back to where prevention started. Incorporating substance abuse prevention and mental health awareness into your community.

Tuesday May 9, 2017: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday May 10, 2017: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Conference and CEUs are free of charge. Lunch will be provided Wednesday.

Paroquet Springs Conference Centre Shepherdsville, KY

FAMILY MEETINGS:



**Do you have family or a friend
in jail or prison?**

Are you looking for a safe,
welcoming community where you will be
accepted without judgement?

Join us the 3rd Tuesday of the
month from 6:30-8:00pm.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

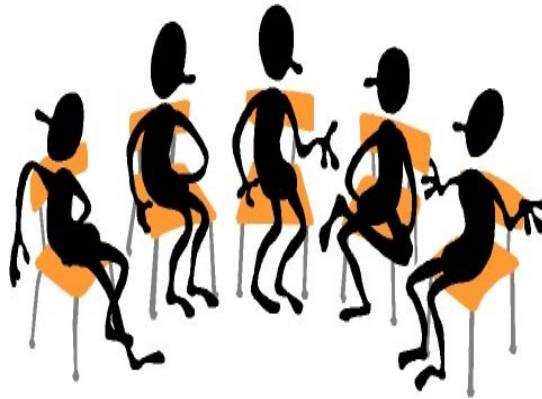


**PLEASE JOIN US
FOR FRIENDS AND
FAMILY INC
SUPPORT GROUP**

WHEN
3RD TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH
6:30-8:00PM

WHERE
CATHOLIC CHARITIES
3629 CHURCH ST.
COVINGTON, KY
41015

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Maria Meyer
mmeyer@covingtoncharities.org
859.581.8974 ext.117
www.covingtoncharities.org



BLUEGRASS FAMILIES OF THE INCARCERATED



****FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL****

Families of the Incarcerated is a group of family members in the Lexington, Kentucky area with loved ones incarcerated, committed to providing support to one another and provide for a smoother transition for the families once their loved ones return home. They meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at American National University and welcomes all families who are seeking a place of love, support, and encouragement as they deal with having a member of their family in prison.

PLEASE RSVP TO: jamrnorton@gmail.com, 859-338-9821 (Jim)

Upcoming 2017 Monthly Meetings/Topics:

January 18— Jessica Halladay, State of Kentucky Justice Cabinet

February 15—

March 15—

April 19— Luke Canfield, Life Skills Program Specialist, Division of Community Corrections, Lexington

May 17— Kerry Mears, Kentucky Dept of Corrections, Reentry Branch

June 21— Rev. Aaron Mobley, Chaplain at North Point Correctional Facility

**Bluegrass Families of the Incarcerated, American National University
2376 Sir Barton Way, Lexington, KY**